

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Consecration Sunday • Thanksgiving Sunday • November 24, 2024

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Air in G (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #694 United Methodist Hymnal — Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Whitney Hagan, Lay Lector

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home. Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Whitney Hagan

Please greet those worshipping near you.

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

#2233 The Faith We Sing— Where Children Belong

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

I Am a Child of God

I am a child of God; You are God's child, it's true. Children of God are called to love one another, as Jesus taught to do.

As the congregation sings, the children may go to Sunday School in Rooms 204 and 206.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Todd Erlandson, Lay Leadership Team

We give thanks for God's Creating Spirit that continues to give us life and lead us forward!

Thanks be to God!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Martha Ross

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Ruth 2:1-13; 4:13-17

Whitney Hagan

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Gleaning God's Gifts"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Todd Erlandson

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. Or, you may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give, or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.

OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

I Sing the Greatness of Our God (Fred Bock)

I sing the greatness of our God, that made the mountains rise; that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing of the Wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at His command, and all the skies obey. I sing the greatness of our God that filled the earth with food; he formed all creatures with His Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye; if I survey the ground I walk or look up to the sky! There is no plant or flower below, but make Thy glories known; the clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne; while all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, and everywhere that we can be, Lord, Thou art present there. I sing the greatness of our God.

*PRESENTATION OF OUR 2025 GIFTS AND PLEDGES

*HYMN #87 UMH — What Gift Can We Bring

*PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Rev. Batson

O God, Creator of all, you have blessed us with abundance. Thank you for the many gifts you have bestowed upon us, from the fruits of the earth to the promise of new life. We now give a small portion of those blessings back to you, O Lord. Consecrate these gifts and our pledges for the new year. May we as the Church, the Body of Christ, be good stewards of them. May we embody the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, as we share these gifts with our neighbors, in thanksgiving for your generosity and grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #664 UMH — Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God (J. S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox)

Ty Woodward

*Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world.
You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.*

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. You may fill out a Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or sign in online: www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new, or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**Children and Families on Sundays:** Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family Zone in the Narthex.

—**Safe Sanctuaries®:** First UMC takes the safety of the children and youth very seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and adults.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:**

Reredos: "In memory of Marilyn E. Leoni, (11-21-1940 to 10-21-2021) Long time member of FUMC Santa Monica; 34 year teacher with LAUSD; Wife of long time member of FUMC-Santa Monica, Paul Leoni. Pharm D, Co owner of Patton's Pharmacy of Santa Monica, (retired 2019). Missed by all of her 4 children and 5 grandchildren, numerous former employees, fellow teachers and many pharmacy patrons, Love you and miss you Marilyn." From Paul Leoni.

Narthex: "In memory of my beautiful wife Marcia Gayle." From Clive Reid.

—**Give:** Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. Thank you for considering giving to the General Church Fund to support everything we do. You may give today during service, or other ways; by mailing payment, dropping by the business office, or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. Questions about financial gifts, or gifts of time? Give us a call anytime at the church office.

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a Prayer Quilt in worship, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilt on the north wall of the Sanctuary, or call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org. To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry.

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Request a prayer at any time. Go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests.

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God is real. God is love. ■ Together we can change the world.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258



Today - Blood Pressure Screenings

Did you know that regular blood pressure screenings can help detect hypertension early, which can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other complications? The Health Ministry Council continues to offer free monthly blood pressure screenings during Sunday coffee hour. We encourage everyone to stop by and check in for a free blood pressure screening and discussion of healthy lifestyle habits for maintaining optimal blood pressure levels.

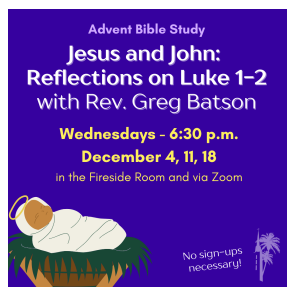
Today, after worship in Simkins Hall



Today - United Women in Faith Christmas Bazaar

The United Women in Faith are ready to sell their handmade peanut brittle and Christmas Bazaar items! Through annual events like the Bazaar, the UWF support local and global missions/organizations, including The Westside Food Bank, The People Concern, Children, Youth, & Family Collaborative, Meals on Wheels, The Wesley Foundation serving UCLA, and more.

Today, after worship in the Alcove



Advent Bible Study with Rev. Greg Batson

Join Rev. Greg Batson for an in-person and online Advent Bible Study: **Jesus and John: Reflections on Luke 1-2**. Luke weaves the birth stories of John the Baptist and Jesus together, including the beautiful poetry of Mary's song (the Magnificat) and Zechariah's song (the Benedictus). The scripture runs parallel to the scripture of the Sundays in Advent during 10 a.m. worship. *No sign-ups necessary.*

Wednesdays: December 4, 11 & 18, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room, or Zoom
Zoom link on the website: <https://santamonicaumc.org/advent-bible-study/>

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS

• Today! Consecration Sunday

The 2025 Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign invites us each and all to prayerfully consider our financial pledge to support the mission and ministries of First UMC. During worship today we are invited to bring our pledge cards forward to be blessed. Thank you for prayerfully and joyfully offering your 2025 Financial Gift to support, sustain, and grow the vital, life-giving ministry and mission of First UMC.

www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship

Today during worship



• First UMC Christmas Concert

The First UMC Music Department is pleased to present the annual Christmas Concert! Featuring: "Magnificat" by Gerald Finzi; "Jubilate Deo" by Dan Forrest; and the ever popular "Carols, Etc." Featuring the The Chancel Choir and guest singers; Santa Monica College Concert Chorale, Los Angeles Concert Orchestra; Mark Twain Alumni Ringers. Conducted by Ryan Brown and James Smith. *No admission charges - freewill offering will be taken.* Reception in Simkins Hall to follow performance.

Sunday, December 8, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**For those who can't attend Sunday night, you may observe the Concert rehearsal Saturday morning (December 7) at 9 a.m. at no charge. Carols and readings rehearsal begins at 11 a.m. Out of courtesy to the musicians please no cell phones; families with babies/small children may listen from the Narthex.*

• Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree is back and is again being chaired by church member, Chris Ruud. This church/community project fills 26 laundry baskets with new household items to provide the families of Family Place/Upward Bound House with new things for Christmas. Chris is excited that she will be available after worship for three Sundays to take sign-ups. If you worship online, or can't make it to church, please call or email Chris (310 393.3255, chr10is@yahoo.com) and she will tell you what is needed and what you can do to help. The wrapped gifts can be dropped off on Sundays, or at the church office Monday-Thursday.

Sundays, December 1, 8 & 15 in the Alcove

MISSION AND SERVICE

• Ways to Serve at First UMC

Many of you have asked... How can I do more? How can I serve? These are excellent questions to consider! We have ways to serve out in the community with our Mission Partners - AND ways to serve here in our church community. Opportunities include: Labyrinth Host, Lay Lector, Welcome Ambassador, Usher, In-Home Communion Server, Singing in the Chancel Choir. All are vital ways to faithfully share your gifts. To explore a service opportunity, please reach out to Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

• Volunteer Opportunity at The People Concern

Linda Diane Anderson runs a volunteer group on the **third Saturday of the month** at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. If you would like to be part of the group rotation of volunteers, contact Tricia: t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org. The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier.

• Santa Monica Community Thanksgiving Dinners

- **St. Monica's Catholic Church:** Wednesday,

November 27, 1 - 4 p.m. 725 California Ave, SM
A warm Thanksgiving meal will be served outside at tables. Following their meal, guests will be escorted to a clothing boutique where they can choose new items such as: sleeping bags, thermals, new clothing, toiletry items and more.

- **Westside Thanksgiving Community Dinner & Celebration,** November 28, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

1645 Corinth Ave, L.A., CA 90025
We provide a wonderful sit-down Thanksgiving dinner, a huge selection of clothing to choose from, a "Mercado" (store) where you can shop for perishable and non-perishable items, live music, companionship, and more – all for free!

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

• Children's Ministry

Families are invited to begin worship in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Message, children are guided to Sunday School for ages 12 months through 5th grade in the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Family Zone in the Narthex. You are invited to look around and greet a child and their family in worship. You might hear a few more giggles and whispers or see some wiggles...let's celebrate the joyful and life-filled presence beloved children bring to our community each week! www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

• Preschool Enrollment Ongoing

Schedule a tour today with Co-Associate Directors Dane or Johanna at 310-395-7292, or visit our webpage for more information: www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool

YOUTH

• United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

Weekly UMYF meetings held Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

Upcoming Meetings: Nov 24, Dec 8, 15

PRAYER

• Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth and Chapel are open on the first Friday of the month, from 1 - 3 p.m. Families welcome!

Next Opportunity: Friday, December 6, 1 - 3 p.m.

• Prayer Requests

The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time.

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/

• Request a Prayer Quilt

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a group that makes Prayer Quilts as a service for those in need. (**Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.*) To request a Prayer Quilt, visit:

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry

ONGOING MINISTRIES AT FIRST UMC

If you'd like more information for ministry opportunities, you may contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org

• Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom Men's Bible Study is a weekly online meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture.

www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy

• Listening Hearts Women's Group

Listening Hearts is a spiritual community of women who gather to listen to one another in the midst of life's chaos, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero.

Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Next meeting: **Wednesday, Dec 4**, Literati Cafe

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, Jan 18**

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. **Sing in the Chancel Choir!** We always welcome new members who would like to sing with the choir! Thursday evening rehearsals are from 7:30 - 9 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Contact Jim Smith if you are interested:

djes@roadrunner.com

• Open Space Young Adults

Open Space is a young adult ministry that offers community for young adults to journey alongside one another in spiritual discovery, growth, and belonging.

Learn more: www.santamonicaumc.org/open-space

IG: @openspacesm. Next meeting: **Wednesday, December 4**, off-site.

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings **once a month** after worship. Next meeting: Today, **Sunday, Nov 24** in Simkins Hall.

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED ARTWORK

Jean-François Millet, *Des glaneuses*, 1857

True to one of Millet's favorite subjects – peasant life – this painting is the culmination of ten years of research on the theme of the gleaners. These women incarnate the rural working-class. They were authorized to go quickly through the fields at sunset to pick up, one by one, the shafts of wheat missed by the harvesters. The painter shows three of them in the foreground, bent double, their eyes raking the ground. He thus juxtaposes the three phases of the back-breaking repetitive movement imposed by this thankless task: bending over, picking up and straightening up again. Further reading: <https://www.musee-orsay.fr/en/artworks/des-glaneuses-342>



Welcome to First UMC of Santa Monica!

Welcome to the worship, service, and fellowship of Santa Monica First United Methodist Church. First UMC is committed to a ministry that touches the lives of people in many significant ways. Through our worship and music, study opportunities, social groups, mission involvement and ministries of care, we proclaim the good news of God's love for all people. We also work to help make the world a better place in which to live, here in the communities of the Westside and around the world, and eagerly invite your participation in this beloved community. Our church has been a significant presence in the larger Santa Monica community for nearly 150 years.

STAY CONNECTED

To join in fellowship and ministry online, here's how to connect online:



First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc

Instagram: @santamonicaumc

YouTube: @SantaMonicaUMC

The First UMC App: Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM.

Website Pages to note:

Pledge Now – Stewardship 2025:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/stewardship/>

Messy Church - upcoming dates:

www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch

Audio Sermon Archives - *Listen to past sermons*

www.santamonicaumc.org/sermon-archives

Sunday Worship Service archives -

www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive

Sunday Flowers

Do you have a loved one you would like to dedicate flowers to on a given week? The church office can assist with the dedication and the cost is \$80. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online:

www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund

The First UMC App:

First UMC offers a free app - download it and give it a try! With the app, you can:

- Participate in Sunday's service, in real time or anytime at your convenience, right from your smartphone or iPad.
- Access our calendar of our events
- Invite a friend to an event, or share info about a special program we offer.
- Access an **audio/written Bible** with a built-in daily reading plan.

To download the app, go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Our theme this year for our Stewardship Campaign is “Building Our Home: A Celebration of Belonging.” Last Sunday, we listened to First UMC member **Lindsay Dewald** give a Stewardship Moment during worship. Here are some of her thoughts:



"My husband Spencer and I are very fortunate to call First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica our church home for the last 10 years. We both grew up in similar churches where our parents not only instilled the importance of living a God and Jesus Christ-led life but also the importance of giving. We observed and learned the importance of giving generously with not only our money, but also our time, service, and presence....There are so many ways we can give. Each action starts a ripple effect of passing the love of Jesus Christ on to others in and outside of our direct Church community. We are humbly living the example of Jesus Christ when we focus our actions in these ways with no expectation for anything in return.

When we think about our giving to the church this season and our pledges for the coming year, we challenge all of us to think about what this church home, family, and our relationship with God means to us. 2nd Corinthians 9:7 says, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver." May we open our hearts joyfully this season to give generously to support the countless missions of this church and be the best example of Jesus Christ that we can be. Thank you."

Thank you Lindsay for your thoughts. Our support builds our church home where all belong, making the ministries we offer a reality. By giving of our time, talents, and resources, we deepen our relationship with God and one another. If you've not yet begun the spiritual practice of regular giving, we invite you to do so by making a pledge commitment for 2025. If you can increase your giving in support of our growth, we invite you to commit to that in the next year as well.

During the month of November, we have focused on what it means to Build our Home through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. **Today is Consecration Sunday, and we invite everyone to bring your pledge cards forward to be blessed during the Presentation of our 2025 Gifts and Pledges.**

You may also:

- Fill out an online pledge card: www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship
- or Email our Business Administrator, Christina Eddy, with your pledge at c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org by November 30.